

Therefore it is claimed:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS

1-9 (Canceled)

Add new Claims 10-31 as follows:

10. (New) A method of maintaining a desired temperature in an already completed section of a heating flue in a coke-oven battery during the construction or repair of a non-completed portion of heating flue, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a heated gas, the heated gas being air that is normally present in the heating flues;

guiding the gas through flow paths present in the coke-oven battery for the combustion air and the exhaust gas;

directing the guided gas through the desired heating flue to be repaired; and providing an air reversing device which separates the completed section of the heating flue from the non-completed portion.

11. (New) The method according to Claim 10, further comprising the step of moving the position of the air reversing device incrementally upwards with the progress of the work on the heating flue.

12. (New) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising the step of regulating the combustion air throughput by the air reversing device.

13. (New) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the regulating of the combustion air throughput is done by a sliding valve.

14. (New) The method according to Claim 13, further comprising the step of controlling the temperature in the completed section by at least one temperature

measurement point.

15. (New) The method according to Claim 10, further comprising the step of regulating the combustion air throughput by the air reversing device.

16. (New) The method according to Claim 15, wherein the regulating of the combustion air throughput is done by a sliding valve.

17. (New) The method according to Claim 10, further comprising the step of controlling the temperature in the completed section at a temperature measurement point.

18. (New) The method according to Claim 10, further comprising the step of reversing the direction of the heated gas.

19. (New) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the reversal is done approximately every 20 minutes.

20. (New) An air reversing device for maintaining a desired temperature in an already completed section of heating flue in a coke-oven battery during the construction or repair of a non-completed portion of heating flue, said reversing device comprising: at least one air passage tube and a cover plate which separate the completed section from the non-completed portion, said at least one air passage directing heating gases from one heating flue to another heating flue.

21. (New) The air reversing device according to Claim 20, further comprising a sliding valve for regulating the amount of the heating gases.

22. (New) The air reversing device according to Claim 21, further comprising at least one temperature measurement point for controlling the desired temperature in the region of the air reversing device.

23. (New) The air reversing device according to Claim 20, further comprising at least one temperature measurement point for controlling the desired temperature in the

region of the air reversing device.

24. (New) An air reversing device for maintaining a desired temperature in an already completed section of heating flue in a coke-oven battery during the construction or repair of a non-completed portion of heating flue, the already completed section having a plurality of flues, said reversing device comprising: an air passage tube having an inlet in fluid communication with a first flue of the plurality of flues and an outlet in fluid communication with a second flue of the plurality of flues, and a cover plate which along with said tube separates the completed section from the non-completed portion, said passage tube directing the heating gases from the first flue to the second flue.

25. (New) The air reversing device according to Claim 24, wherein said outlet is a first outlet and said passage tube further includes a second outlet in fluid communication with a third flue, said inlet directing the heating gases to both said first and said second outlets.

26. (New) The air reversing device according to Claim 24, wherein said inlet is a first inlet and said passage tube further includes a second inlet in fluid communication with a third flue, said first and second inlets directing the heating gases to said outlet.

27. (New) The air reversing device according to Claim 26, wherein said outlet is at least two outlets.

28. (New) A method for hot repair of coke oven battery heating flues operated in pairs or groups, wherein heating of the finished sections of the respective heating flue already takes place by heated gas during the bricking up of the heating flues, the air usually provided in heating flues for combustion during coking operation being used as heated gas, said air being passed through the flow paths provided in the coke oven battery for the air for combustion and the exhaust gas, and also through the regenerator, and in so doing is heated up and is then passed through the heating flues for repair, the completed bricked part of the heating flue being separated by an air reversal device from that part of the heating flue which is still to be bricked up.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein regulation of the flowthrough of

air for combustion takes place in the air reversal device.

30. (New) A method according to claim 29, wherein regulation of the flowthrough of air for combustion is effected by a slide valve.

31. (New) A method according to any one of claims 28, wherein control of the temperature in the region of the air reversal device is affected by at least one temperature measuring station.